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be forgotten, however, that some features seen may be peculiar to a stream in clay loosely laid, but would not be found in nature. Field work is now necessary to verify some of these purely observational points, and, until so verified the latter may be considered as facts belonging to the experimental stream, but not necessarily to all streams whether free or not.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY.

ANGELO HEILPRIN.

Professor Heilprin died in New York city on July 17th last. Born in Hungary in 1853, he was only 54 years of age. He was in the prime of life, and his enthusiasm for scientific research and joy in the life-work he had chosen had suffered no abatement. Though his reputation as a geographer and naturalist was international, his untimely loss is felt with especial poignancy at home.

Heilprin came of a talented family. His grandfather, Phineas M. Heilprin, was a recognized authority in Hebraic and philosophical literature in the early part of the last century. His father, Michael Heilprin, was an erudite scholar and held a high position in the fields of Biblical interpretation and literary criticism. Michael Heilprin and his family came to America in 1856, and in 1860 young Heilprin's education began in a public school of Brooklyn. The boy was precocious; his passionate love of knowledge and his facility in acquiring it were innate. His intellectual tendencies and talent were fostered and promoted by his home training, and while still in his teens his receptive mind had embraced a wide range of knowledge. Mr. Louis E. Levy, in the *Memoir* read before the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia in September last, wrote that before young Heilprin had reached his twentieth year he was a capable associate with his elder brother Louis in the work of their father as revising editor of the *American Cyclopædia*, contributing also a number of original articles, notably the biographical sketch of John Tyndall.

The year 1876 found Heilprin in London studying the natural sciences at the Royal School of Mines with Huxley as his guide in biology, Ethridge in palæontology, and Judd in geology. The young man received the Forbes Medal for proficiency in biology and palæontology. Later he studied in Paris; wandered on foot

through the Swiss Alps, learning what he could of their glaciers; spent eight months in Geneva at the lectures of Professor Carl Vogt and among the collections of the Natural History Museum. Still adding to his stores of knowledge, he made prolonged journeys in the Tyrolese Alps, Austria, Hungary, and Russian Poland, and then returned to America. His three years in Europe had greatly developed his gift of critical and accurate observation.

He was twenty-seven years old when he began his life of incessant productivity. Forming a connection with the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, he made his permanent residence in that city. He became professor of invertebrate palæontology and later curator in charge. His relations with the Academy continued until his resignation in 1892.

Late in the eighties, Heilprin began the series of scientific explorations that so greatly distinguished his career. In 1886 he led an expedition to the Everglades of Florida, and his studies of that interior region and of the fauna of the seashore were rich in scientific results. Almost simultaneously with the publication of his elaborate report on the Florida explorations came his book "On the Geographical and Geological Distribution of Animals," a volume of the International Scientific Series, which retains its place as a standard work on zoögeography. Before the eighth decade closed Heilprin published three more books which enhanced his reputation: "The Animal Life on Our Seashore," an attractive and popular presentation of the subject; "The Geological Evidences of Evolution," and "The Bermuda Islands." In 1890 his "Principles of Geology" elucidated the subject by means largely of photographic reproductions from nature; the first extensive use of this method of illustration. Heilprin was one of the first to appreciate the educational possibilities of the new art of half-tone photo-engraving.

His visit to the Mexican plateau in 1890 helped to determine the true nature of that wonderful natural feature and establish the fact that Orizaba and not Popocatepetl was the highest point in Mexico. He continued these studies in 1906 and was preparing a volume on the subject at the time of his death. Among his other conspicuous labours in the field were his glacial studies in the Arctic regions on some of the Peary expeditions. His appreciation of Peary's work and his active friendship were of the greatest service to that explorer in his undertakings.

Heilprin visited Alaska in 1898 and 1899, and recorded his observations in his book on "Alaska and the Klondike." His remarkable

studies of the Martinique volcano, La Montagne Pelée, were the result of three visits to the island ; and in 1906 he was able to gratify a long-cherished desire to see the wonders of the tropical forests by a journey into the interior of British Guiana. It was there that he contracted the fever which undermined his constitution and prepared the way for his untimely end.

In 1886 he organized the Geographical Society of Philadelphia and was long its president. Together with his brother Louis he gave much of his time for five years to the arduous task of reconstructing "Lippincott's Gazetteer of the World." In 1903, Yale University called him to direct the Department of Physical Geography in the Sheffield Scientific School. During his career he was highly honoured by various scientific societies, and at the time of his death he was President of the Association of American Geographers, Vice-President of the American Alpine Club, Associate Editor of the *BULLETIN* of the American Geographical Society, and he held prominent positions in several other societies.

Professor Heilprin was a man of brilliant intellectuality and restless activity, who accomplished great work in a brief space of years. The list of his published writings would be a long one. He had the respect of all men not only for his fine achievements but also for the simplicity of his character, his modesty and gentleness and his great desire to be helpful not only in widening the bounds of knowledge, but also in disseminating the truths of science more generally among his fellow-men.

A RAILROAD THROUGH NIGERIA.

Several months ago an American who has lived in Nigeria said in New York that the climate and soil of that large region are favourable for the cultivation of cotton, but as yet there is no encouragement to raise it because there are no railroads to carry it to the sea. Cotton, being a bulky and low-priced commodity, cannot be carried to a distant market except at cheap rates, and only railroads to inner Africa will supply the cheap transportation required.

This railroad is now to be supplied. It is to start from Baro on the Niger River below the rapids that impede navigation. Vessels loaded with cotton brought by rail to Baro may descend the